

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2014

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on March 19, 2014, at the Virginia War Memorial, 621 South Belvidere Street, Richmond.

Members Present

- Brett Reistad, American Legion
- Richard Mansfield, AMVETS
- Donald Kaiserman, Association of the United States Army
- Allan McCroskey, Disabled American Veterans
- John Edwards, Korean War Veterans Association
- John Prendergast, Marine Corps League
- Stuart Williams, Military Officers Association of America
- Robert Fairchild, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- William Barrett, Military Order of the World Wars
- Thomas Moran, National Association for Uniformed Services
- Matthew Dailey, Non Commissioned Officers Association
- David Coffield, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Carmen Gentile, Reserve Officers Association
- James Clem, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
- Thomas Gimble, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- George Corbett, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Robert Huffman, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
- Shawn Otto, Virginia National Guard Association
- Marie Juliano, Women Marines Association
- Thad Jones, Chairman, Board of Veterans Services
- Rich Schollmann, Chairman, Veterans Services Foundation
- Paul Galanti, Commissioner of Veterans Services

Members Absent

- Harold Barton, Air Force Association
- George Coker, American Ex-POWs
- Abe Zino, Fleet Reserve Association
- Thomas Richards, Legion of Valor of the U.S., Inc.
- Glenn Rodriguez, Navy Seabee Veterans of America

Alternates Present (representing their VSO)

- Jeffrey Platte, Air Force Association
- Jeff Gilmartin, Fleet Reserve Association

- Rich Rinaldo, Legion of Valor of the U.S., Inc.
- Frank Driscoll, Navy Seabee Veterans of America

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- John Sabatini, AMVETS
- Dan Dennison, National Association for Uniformed Services
- James Samuel, Military Order of the Purple Heart

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- John Newby, Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Mike Coleman, Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Leslie Frazier, Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Al Pianalto, Office of Delegate Kirk Cox and member, Veterans Services Foundation
- Christina Lipin, Department of Motor Vehicles
- Cindy Norwood, Office of the Attorney General
- Steven Combs, Department of Veterans Services
- Jon Hatfield, Department of Veterans Services
- Jack Hilgers, Department of Veterans Services
- Andrew Schwartz, Department of Veterans Services
- Annie Walker, Department of Veterans Services
- Danielle Weaver, Department of Veterans Services
- Cathy Wilson, Department of Veterans Services

Others Present

- Larry Brom, Department of Defense (DoD) Vietnam War Commemoration Office
- Trina Chisholm, DoD Vietnam War Commemoration Office
- John O'Brian, DoD Vietnam War Commemoration Office
- Valerie Palacios, DoD Vietnam War Commemoration Office
- Kelly Polinsky, DoD Vietnam War Commemoration Office
- Linda Dennison, National Association for Uniformed Services
- Bill Whitt, Fleet Reserve Association
- Ross Koenig, TMG, Inc.
- Nate Szejniuk, Freedom Support Center, Petersburg

Items included in the Agenda Packet

Agenda (Agenda Item II)

Presentations (Agenda Item V)

- Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program
 - V3 Program Executive Summary
 - V3 Program Military Workforce Recruiting Flier

New Business (Agenda Item VI)

- 2014 General Assembly Session
 - List of veterans and military bills
 - Copy of House Bill 354 – JLC powers and duties

- MOAA discussion points – 2014 and 2015 General Assembly Session
- JLC Constitution
- JLC Bylaws
- JLC 2014 Action Plan

Reports (Agenda Item VI)

- Board of Veterans Services Report
- Veterans Services Foundation Report
- Department of Veterans Services Report

Items distributed at the meeting

- Summary of JLC 2014 Initiatives
- DoD Vietnam War Commemoration packet

Opening and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Donald Kaiserman called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Vice-Chairman Thomas “Chip” Moran led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of VSOs and Quorum Determination

The roll was called, and 23 of the 24 veterans service organizations (VSOs) represented on the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) were recorded as being represented. A quorum was determined. Mr. Thad Jones, the Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS), Mr. Richard Schollmann, the Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF), and Commissioner Paul Galanti of the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) were recorded as present.

Approval of the agenda

Vice Chairman Moran made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Robert Huffman, to approve the agenda as presented. The **motion** carried **unanimously**. The approved agenda is included as Attachment 1.

Introductions of Guests

Chairman Kaiserman asked Mr. Steven Combs to introduce the state officials and guests. Their names and organizations are recorded above. Chairman Kaiserman welcomed them to the meeting.

Approve December 18, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chairman Moran made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Allan McCroskey, to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2013 JLC meeting as drafted. The December 18, 2013 minutes were approved as drafted by **unanimous** consent.

Approve January 9, 2014 Conference Minutes

Mr. McCroskey made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Brett Reistad, to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2014 JLC Conference as drafted. The January 9, 2014 minutes were approved as drafted by **unanimous** consent.

Opening remarks

Chairman Kaiserman welcomed the JLC members to the meeting. He noted the presence of several alternate members and thanked them for attending the meeting. He reminded the members of the importance of having an alternate representative for each VSO.

Chairman Kaiserman commented on House Joint Resolution 8, the proposed constitutional amendment to provide a real property tax exemption for spouses of military service members who were killed in action. He noted that the referendum would be on the ballot in the November election and asked each JLC member to encourage his or her VSO to help build support for the November referendum.

Presentations

Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program

Commissioner Galanti introduced Ms. Annie Walker, Director of the DVS Veterans Education, Training and Employment (VETE) section, and explained that she is the DVS lead agent on all GI Bill matters.

Ms. Walker added that her section also is responsible for the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program, the Virginia Transition Assistance Program (VTAP), and administration of the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP).

Ms. Annie Walker opened the V3 Program Review presentation. She explained that the V3 Program contract between DVS and TMG, Inc. expired on February 28, 2014 and that DVS has signed a new partnership agreement with the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) to manage the V3 Program. She then introduced Mr. Andrew Schwartz, DVS V3 Program Manager.

Mr. Schwartz continued with the V3 Program Review presentation and referenced the two V3 Program handouts included in the agenda packet. Mr. Schwartz called the members attention to the flyer for the V3 Military Workforce Recruiting event on April 10 in Hampton. He explained that this event is not a traditional job fair, but rather a recruiting event in which companies will pitch their job openings to the attendees and then conduct screening sessions in a round-table format.

Mr. Rinaldo asked whether incentives for businesses such as those proposed by Senator Puller in the past would make this great program even better. Mr. Schwartz opined that they would. Mr. Rinaldo also asked about the federal program incentives, and Mr. Schwartz pointed out that the federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) was on hiatus.

Chairman Kaiserman thanked Ms. Walker and Mr. Schwartz for their presentation. The presentation and handouts are not included in these minutes but are available separately.

Chairman Kaiserman called for a break at 10:54 a.m. He called the meeting back to order at 11:00 a.m.

United States of America Vietnam War 50th Commemoration

Chairman Kaiserman introduced Larry Brom, Assistant Director for Plans & Operations with the Department of Defense (DoD) Vietnam War Commemoration office. Mr. Brom introduced his staff: Commander John O'Brian, Captain Valerie Palacios, Ms. Kelly Polinsky, and Ms. Trina Chisholm. Mr. Brom explained that Lt. General Claude M. Kicklighter, USA (Ret), the Director of the Vietnam War Commemoration office, was unable to attend the meeting and had asked Mr. Brom to express his gratitude to the JLC members for their support.

Mr. Brom then gave a presentation on the United States of America Vietnam War 50th Commemoration, outlining the purpose and history of the Commemoration, its activities, and the special role played by federal, state, and local communities, veterans service organizations, and other organizations in honoring, remembering, and thanking our Vietnam veterans. Mr. Brom explained that the Commemorative Partner Program offered the opportunity for these groups to plan and conduct events and activities to recognize Vietnam veterans and their families and to honor their service, valor, and sacrifice. He noted that Commemorative Partners are asked to conduct two events per year from 2015 to 2017.

Mr. Brom asked that the JLC members ask their individual VSOs to become Commemorative Partners in this ongoing event. He noted that additional information is available in the packets distributed at the meeting, by contacting his office, or by visiting the Vietnam War Commemoration's website at <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com> and clicking on "Commemorative Partner Program."

Chairman Kaiserman thanked Mr. Brom and his team for the presentation and for their outstanding work to honor and remember Vietnam veterans and their families.

New Business

2014 General Assembly session: JLC and BVS initiatives and other veteran/military legislation

Mr. Brett Reistad, JLC Legislative Officer, led the review of JLC and BVS initiatives and other veteran/military legislation considered during the 2014 General Assembly session. He noted that while the JLC and BVS had achieved success with the Governor and General Assembly over the past two years, several factors worked against similar success in the 2014 General Assembly. He directed the members' attention handout titled *MOAA discussion points: 2014 and 2015 General Assembly Sessions (see Attachment 2)* and asked Mr. Stu Williams to review the 2014 General Assembly discussion points with the Council.

Mr. Stu Williams noted that several factors had an impact on the JLC 2014 initiatives: change in the membership on the House Appropriations and Senate Finance committees, the change in the party control of the Senate (which changed the membership of the Senate Finance committee), and the debate over Medicaid expansion, which diverted attention away from funding for veterans programs.

Mr. Reistad asked Mr. Combs to review the seven JLC 2014 Initiatives. Using the summary of JLC 2014 Initiatives updated after the December 18, 2013 meeting, Mr. Combs gave a brief overview. He noted that the General Assembly had adjourned on March 8 without passing a budget, and would convene in special session on March 24 to begin work again on a budget. Because five of the seven JLC 2014 Initiatives are budget-related, final results will not be known until a budget is passed. He noted that the current status of the JLC initiatives is:

- JLC 2014-01: some funding in introduced budget, but no additional funding in House or Senate budget;
- JLC 2014-02: base funding of \$450,000 per year included in the introduced budget (JLC recommendation). Additional \$100,000 in House budget;
- JLC 2014-03: some funding in introduced budget. Additional \$350,000 in Senate committee budget;
- JLC 2014-04: House Bill 759 and Senate Bill 11 passed the General Assembly;
- JLC 2014-05: no funding in introduced or in House or Senate budgets;
- JLC 2014-06: no funding in introduced or in House or Senate budgets;
- JLC 2014-07: House Joint Resolution 8 and House Bill 46 passed the General Assembly. Referendum will be on the ballot for the November election.

Mr. Williams added that it was important to note that House Bill 759 and Senate Bill 11 contain a reenactment clause, which means that while state agencies can begin work to put procedures in place, the law will not go into effect unless reenacted (approved) by the 2016 General Assembly.

Mr. Combs added that House Bill 46, related to the real estate tax exemption, contained provisions that would place the law into effect on January 1, 2015 if the referendum is approved by the voters in November 2014. He noted that the bill places a limit on the value of the home – up to the average assessed value of the single family residences in the locality.

Mr. Reistad thanked Mr. Williams and Mr. Combs for their help in providing the updates. Mr. Reistad noted that Delegate Kirk Cox's website is a good source of information on veteran and military-related legislation.

Chairman Kaiserman noted that House Bill 354, patroned by Delegate Kirk Cox and passed by the 2014 General Assembly, expands the powers and duties of the JLC to advise both the Department of Veterans Services and the General Assembly on veterans issues. He asked Mr. Reistad to study this and report back to the JLC on how best to carry out the new mission, while ensuring effective coordination with DVS and the Governor's office.

Mr. Reistad agreed to do so, and asked that any guidance or feedback from the members be sent to him by e-mail so that he could incorporate it into his report for the next meeting.

Report of the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee

Mr. Robert Fairchild, Chairman of the JLC Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee, thanked his fellow committee members, Mr. Abe Zino and Mr. Reistad for their work on the committee.

Mr. Fairchild stated that the committee had reviewed the JLC Constitution and By-Laws, that the documents effectively supported JLC operations, and that the Committee did not have any

recommended changes. He noted that he had not received any recommended changes from the members, and asked the members to contact him if they did have any recommendations.

Mr. Jeffrey Platte asked if the Constitution or the By-Laws would need to be revised as a result of passage of House Bill 354. Mr. Combs stated that the provisions of the bill would go into effect on July 1 and suggested that the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee review the Constitution and By-Laws again prior to the July 16 meeting and report at that meeting on any recommended changes. Mr. Fairchild agreed to do this.

Initial review and discussion of potential 2015 JLC initiatives

Mr. Reistad asked Mr. Williams to cover the discussion items in the MOAA handout related to the 2015 General Assembly (*see Attachment 2*). Mr. Williams noted that any JLC items remaining from 2014 and the bills not passed by the 2014 General Assembly were a good starting point for the JLC in considering 2015 initiatives.

Chairman Kaiserman thanked Mr. Reistad and Mr. Williams for their work.

Other new business

Mr. Carmen Gentile, Chairman of the JLC Nominating Committee, noted that the JLC Constitution and By-Laws call for elections for the JLC Chairman and Vice Chairman to be held at the third quarter meeting, scheduled for July 16. He stated that the current Chairman and Vice Chairman will be completing their second terms and are ineligible to serve a third term.

Mr. Gentile stated that the JLC Constitution and By-Laws also call for candidates for the Chairman and Vice Chairman to declare their intention to run for office at the second quarter meeting, scheduled for May 21. He asked that any members interested in serving as Chairman or Vice Chairman to please contact him by e-mail. Members wishing to nominate another member for Chairman or Vice Chairman should contact him by e-mail. He asked that Mr. Fairchild and Mr. George Corbett serve on the Nominating Committee. Both agreed to do, and their service was accepted by the Council without objection.

Reports

Board of Veterans Services

Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Chairman Thad Jones delivered the BVS report (*Attachment 3*). Mr. Jones stated that there are two new board members: Mr. J. Patrick Murray and Ms. Belinda Pinckney. He said that the next BVS meeting is scheduled for May 13.

Chairman Kaiserman thanked Mr. Jones for his report.

Veterans Services Foundation

Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Chairman Rich Schollmann delivered the VSF report (*Attachment 4*). VSF Chairman Schollmann stated that as of March 14 the VSF had received approximately \$285,000 in donations in FY14, of which about \$227,600 was for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program. He said that the next VSF board meeting is scheduled for March 26.

Chairman Kaiserman thanked Mr. Schollmann for his report.

Department of Veterans Services

Deputy Commissioner Cathy Wilson delivered the DVS report (*Attachment 5*) for Commissioner Galanti, who had left the meeting. She thanked Ms. Walker for the nice presentation on VETE and the V3 Program and commended her for streamlining the GI Bill program certification and audit process and for her leadership of the V3, VTAP, and VMSDEP programs.

Deputy Commissioner Wilson noted that the VWWP Executive Director position has been advertised on the state job recruitment website.

Chairman Kaiserman thanked Deputy Commissioner Wilson for the DVS report.

Virginia Military Advisory Council

Vice Chairman Moran stated that the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC) last met on December 3, 2013, and because he had reported on the results of that meeting at the December 18, 2013 JLC meeting, he did not have a new report for the JLC. He said that the next VMAC meeting is scheduled for June 26 in Richmond and that he would have a report at the July 16 JLC meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Closing Remarks

Chairman Kaiserman noted that the VCU Baseball Team will hold a Military Appreciation Day on April 16 at the Diamond in Richmond, with free admission to military service members, veterans, and their family members.

Mr. Rich Rinaldo stated that he would like the JLC to invite student veterans to participate in JLC discussions and that we might consider student veteran organization representation on the JLC.

Chairman Kaiserman asked the members to review the JLC Action Plan in advance of the next JLC meeting, scheduled for May 21.

Chairman Kaiserman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Kaiserman adjourned the meeting at 12:24 p.m. A lunch was served after the meeting.

ATTACHMENT 1

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Virginia War Memorial
VMI Alumni Hall of Honor
621 S. Belvidere St, Richmond
March 19, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.**

AGENDA

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (10:00 – 10:05)
- II. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, approval of agenda and introduction of guests – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (10:05 – 10:10)
- III. Approve December 18, 2013 meeting minutes and January 9, 2014 conference minutes – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (10:10 – 10:15)
- IV. Opening remarks – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (10:15 – 10:25)
- V. Presentations (10:25 – 11:05)
 - a. Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program – *Annie Walker, DVS Veteran Education, Training, and Employment Director and Andy Schwartz, DVS V3 Program Manager* (20 minutes)
 - b. United States of America Vietnam War 50th Commemoration – *Larry Brom, Department of Defense Commemorations office* (20 minutes)
- BREAK (11:05 – 11:15)
- VI. New business (11:15 – 12:15)
 - a. 2014 General Assembly session: JLC and BVS initiatives and other veteran/military legislation – *Brett Reistad, Legislative Officer* (30 minutes)
 - b. Report of the Constitution & ByLaws Committee – *Pete Fairchild, Committee Chairman* (5 minutes)
 - c. Initial review and discussion of potential 2015 JLC Initiatives – *Brett Reistad, Legislative Officer* (15 minutes)
 - d. Other new business and open discussion – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (10 minutes)
- VII. Reports (12:15 – 12:35)
 - a. Board of Veterans Services – *Thad Jones, BVS Chairman* (5 minutes)
 - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *Rich Schollmann, VSF Chairman* (5 minutes)
 - c. Virginia Military Advisory Council – *Chip Moran, JLC Representative* (5 minutes)
 - d. Department of Veterans Services – *Paul Galanti, Commissioner* (5 minutes)
- VIII. Public comment period (12:35 – 12:45)

IX. Closing remarks – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (12:45 – 12:50)

X. Adjourn (12:50)

Lunch will be served following the meeting

ATTACHMENT 2

MOAA discussion points: 2014 and 2015 General Assembly Sessions

What Happened in the 2014 GA?

- New Committee Composition
 - House Appropriations:
 - New Chairman and Vice Chairman
 - Senate Finance:
 - Membership composition
- Control of the Senate
 - Switched parties
 - Membership on all committees changed
- Budget Issue on Medicaid Expansion
 - Diverted attention away from Veteran issues

Looking forward to 2015

- Law has changed – JLC can advise the General Assembly
- Use dead bills list as a starting point for new LOs
- Quantify Wounded Warrior and Homeless Veterans hard requirements
 - Numbers and dollars
 - Dollars are tight and will get worse next year –Sequestration
- Focus on Appropriations and Finance Committees – Early
 - Hold special forums for them?
 - Give presentations at early meetings
 - Before session starts??

2015 Recommendations for consideration

- Support DAV to exempt DAV Transportation Vans from paying Tolls on Virginia bridges and highways when transporting veterans to VA medical appointments.
 - Left from 2014 Session
 - a. Claims Agents: Compensation and Retention
 - b. Virginia Wounded Warrior Program
 - c. Virginia Values Veterans
 - d. Virginia Homeless Veterans Program
 - e. Update 2010 Wounded Warrior Study
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ATTACHMENT 3

BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES

REPORT TO THE JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (JLC) OF VETERANS SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS March 19, 2014

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on January 6. At the meeting, the Board:

- Reviewed the three BVS initiatives for the 2014 General Assembly session;
- Received reports from the JLC, Veterans Services Foundation, Department of Veterans Services (DVS), and Virginia War Memorial Board (VWMB);
- Reviewed the DVS budget items in Governor McDonnell's introduced budget;
- Discussed the upcoming 2014 General Assembly session, the status of BVS and JLC proposed legislation, and other expected veterans and military-related items expected to come before the General Assembly;
- Approved the BVS 2014 meeting schedule:
 - Monday, January 6, 2014 (12 p.m.);
 - Tuesday, May 13, 2014 (10 a.m.);
 - Tuesday, July 22, 2014 (10 a.m.);
 - Tuesday, October 7, 2014 (10 a.m.);
 - Monday, January 12, 2015 (10 a.m.);
- Adopted the BVS 2014 Action Plan (attached);
- Approved updated BVS committee assignments
- Approved the FY13 update to the Compact with Virginia's Veterans.

The BVS has two new members:

1. Mr. J. Patrick Murray, replacing Mr. George Melnyk;
2. Ms. Belinda Pinckney, replacing Mr. Alfredo Sample.

The next BVS meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13. The BVS looks forward to continuing its outstanding partnership with the JLC in service to Virginia's veterans.

Respectfully submitted,

Thad A. Jones
Chairman

Board of Veterans Services
2014 Action Plan – “*Keep Building upon Success*”
Adopted January 6, 2014

January 6: “*Establishing our path for success*” meeting

- Discuss 2014 General Assembly session, including Governor’s introduced budget
- Review BVS and JLC 2014 initiatives and other veterans legislation
- Adopt 2014 Meeting Schedule
- Adopt 2014 Action Plan
- Review Code of Virginia and Executive Order 29 (EO29) and the role of the BVS
- Review and endorse the Compact with Virginia’s Veterans

January – May: “*Begin researching and developing BVS 2015 Initiatives*”

- Board members make site visits to DVS facilities
- Committee chairs hold meetings to review/discuss potential initiatives
- Committees research and prepare point papers for May 13 meeting
- Committees review DVS service area plans with DVS directors
- Orientation for new Board members

May 13 meeting

- Review 2014 General Assembly Session: budget and legislation
- Review and discuss committee-proposed 2015 initiatives
- DVS operations briefings – committee chairs and DVS directors
- Appoint nominating committee

May – July: “*Rolling up our sleeves*”

- Board members visit DVS facilities, meet with DVS directors to connect the dots
- Committee chairs hold meetings to review potential 2015 initiatives
- Committees research and prepare point papers for July 22 meeting

July 22 meeting: “*Bringing it all together*”

- Review, discuss, and approve BVS 2015 initiatives
- Review, discuss, and support JLC 2015 initiatives
- Elect BVS Chair and Vice Chair

August 15 (NLT)

- Submit BVS 2015 initiatives to DVS for transmission to Governor
- (Tentative): BVS-JLC Veterans Roundtable with Governor McAuliffe

October 7 meeting: “*Looking ahead*”

- Adopt 2015 Meeting Schedule
- Adopt 2015 Action Plan
- Review DVS Strategic Plan and Compact with Virginia’s Veterans

ATTACHMENT 4

VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT TO Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veterans Service Organizations

March 19, 2014

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees has not met since the JLC meeting in December 2013, therefore, there are no Board actions to be reported.

As of 14 March, the Foundation has received about \$285,000, of which about \$227,600 is for VWWP, during FY14. Total fundraising is lagging that of last year by about \$32,000 for VWWP, which is attributed to the loss of three major donors from FY13. However, individual donations are up significantly. As always, the Foundation extends its sincere congratulations to the outstanding outreach of all DVS activities to realize this significant fundraising level. It could not have been accomplished without the dedication of all DVS personnel.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2013 at the Virginia War Memorial. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) approval of the 2nd Quarter FY14 Fund Statement; (2) approval of FY14 VSF-DVS Budget adjustments; (3) review VSF FY14 fundraising program; (4) election of a nominating committee for FY15 officers.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Schollmann
VSF Chairman

ATTACHMENT 5



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Veterans Services

Paul E. Galanti
Commissioner

Telephone: (804) 786-0286
Fax: (804) 786-0302

Memorandum for: Chairman Donald Kaiserman
Members, Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

From: Paul E. Galanti, Commissioner

Date: March 19, 2014

Subject: Department of Veterans Services report

I am pleased to report to you on some of the recent accomplishments of your Department of Veterans Services (DVS):

- DVS recently realigned several functions under the new Veterans Education, Training, and Employment (VETE) section of DVS. The VETE section is now responsible for:
 - G.I. Bill program certification and audit (the mission of the State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training, or SAA);
 - Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program;
 - Virginia Transition Assistance Program (VTAP);
 - Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP).
- Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP):
 - The *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration* (SAMHSA) hosts a series of Implementation Academies for states and territories that have previously participated in a *Service Members, Veterans, and their Families* (SMVF) Policy Academy. Based on VWWP's strategic work with military and veterans families, the VWWP was asked to attend the March 13-14 meeting in Baltimore, MD. VWWP sent a five-person delegation.
 - The housing development team is working with Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Integrated

Services Network (VISN) 6, Continuum of Care leads, VWWP Region V, and the Hampton VA Medical Center to develop an advisory group to plan a regional veteran housing boot camp (target implementation for summer 2014).

- The boot camp is modeled after the National Veteran Housing Boot Camps hosted by Community Solutions/100,000 homes. During the boot camp regional leaders come together to share and prioritize resources for veterans, identify a monthly take down target of housing placements (on pace to end veteran homelessness by 2015), and commit to a 100-day challenge to house as many veterans as possible.
- Veterans care centers:
 - Construction continues on the 40-bed addition to the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center. Completion is expected in late 2014 with the first new residents expected to be admitted in early 2015;
 - The Virginia Veterans Care Center will receive federal grant funding to replace or upgrade the emergency generator, patient security system, fire alarm system, and communications system;
 - Because of federal funding restrictions, the Hampton and Northern Virginia care center projects will not receive federal grant funding in 2014.
- Veterans cemeteries: several building/grounds maintenance and equipment replacement projects were recently completed or are being planned at the state veterans cemeteries:
 - Completed: two F-150 pickup trucks purchased for the Suffolk cemetery; one rotating front-bed dirt hauler purchased for each cemetery (Amelia, Dublin, and Suffolk);
 - Underway (design stage): heating and cooling systems replacement in the chapel, office building, comfort station, and the grounds maintenance building at the Amelia cemetery;
 - Planning (grant request preparation stage): new columbariums and supporting infrastructure improvements (roads, irrigation, and landscaping) at the Suffolk cemetery;

As always, I would like to thank you for your unflagging devotion in advocating for new and improved services for our veterans and for your support of the Department of Veterans Services. Though it can take several years to reach an objective, we have accomplished great things together, and I look forward to our continued partnership in 2014.